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# AGAWAM

## ADVERTISER NEWS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

December 29, 2016 | Vol. 38, No. 43 | \$1.00

www.agawamadvertiser.turley.com

### NEWS STORY OF THE YEAR

## End of year brings end of Y

*Nonprofit family center's 2016 of hope, disappointment closes with a finish*

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
and Michael J. Ballway  
aan@turley.com

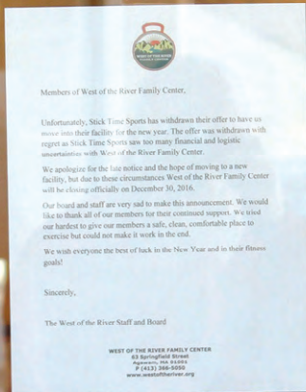
Following the end of a very heart-sinking meeting, Joseph Mineo was the last person sitting at the conference room table in the West of the River Family Center.

He was disappointed and unhappy. After spending most of 2016 trying to build up the family center — first as a fledgling branch of the YMCA, then as an independent community center — he and his board had just made the difficult decision to call it quits.

The latest and last hope to keep the family center going, a deal that would have seen it move in with Stick Time Sports, had fallen through. The family center had survived a threatened closure once before, in May, but amid declining enrollment and rising deficits, now it was finally out of options.

The YMCA Agawam Wellness and Program Family Center began 2016 with high hopes for what would have been its second full year of operation. Mineo, a city councilor, had just taken over as the Advisory Board's new chairman. Executive Director Andrew Melendez, after a brief reassignment to the Greater Springfield YMCA's home office, was back in charge of day-to-day operations in Agawam. Operations Director Ryan Rackliffe was planning an expansion of the Y's youth sports and youth fitness programs.

Its parent organization, the Greater Springfield Y, had just chosen a new president. Scott Berg attended a February meeting of the Agawam YMCA Advisory Board and spoke about his family's history with the former YMCA sum-



A letter on the door of the West of the River Family Center explains to members that it will close Dec. 30. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

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### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

## Safety key for gas pipe

By Michael J. Ballway  
mballway@turley.com

You probably didn't know that more than a billion cubic feet of natural gas is rushing beneath Agawam every day.

That's a good thing, John Kennedy told Agawam public safety and emergency preparedness officials earlier this month.

"That tells me we're doing something right," Kennedy said during a Dec. 14 talk organized by Agawam's Local Emergency Planning Committee. "If we were doing something wrong, they'd know."

Kennedy is the local supervisor for damage prevention at Kinder Morgan, the Texas-based energy company that owns the Tennessee Gas Pipeline, which connects the Gulf Coast with New England, passing through Agawam from Southwick to Longmeadow.

Though the Agawam area hasn't seen an emergency incident since at least the 1980s, punctures, and sometimes explosions, do happen along the pipeline. Kennedy said he holds training sessions with the Agawam Fire Department at least once a year to familiarize first responders with how the pipeline works and what to do in an emergency.

GAS | page 5

### NEWSMAKERS OF THE YEAR

## 'Two simple words' made big, inspiring impact

By Mike Lydick  
aan@turley.com

Sherry Balzano had no idea that a red heart and two simple words — "Be Kind" — would have such a huge impact.

More than 1,000 of the free, hand-lettered signs have been distributed locally and as far away as Michigan. Using donated wood, 15 families began painting the signs as a summer project. There was virtually no cost, but their project soon brought more kindness in the form of financial donations.

With the donations, plus on-line sales of "Be Kind" magnets, the group built on their mission to spread kindness by purchasing metal "Buddy Benches" for elementary schools and School Street Park. They provide a special place for children to sit together and to show they're looking for someone to play with.

"I'm overwhelmed and thrilled with the response. The way our community has embraced what



On a cold December day, four families and their children gathered at dusk at the Robinson Park School playground to celebrate the latest "Buddy Bench" to be installed at an elementary school, and to mark six months since they began the "Be Kind" movement with a few handmade signs. Kasey Fillion is seated; standing, left to right, front row, are Jolene Bertone-Gross, Bruce Bertone-Gross, Lucas Fillion, Timothy Rua (holding sign), Gabriel Rua and Wendy Rua; back row, Karen Fillion, Christian Rua, Maddie Balzano, Billy Balzano and Sherry Balzano. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK

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### NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

## DiCioccio stood up against HAP

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

Kristin DiCioccio has lived near 586 Mill St. for more than 45 years. When she found out that an out-of-town agency was proposing a massive housing project on the 12-acre former farm, she sprang into action, leading meetings, petitions and countless discussions on social media.

The stay-at-home mother has been involved with civic groups before, mostly animal-related, she said. Nothing was like the effort she made this summer. She was the original leader of the pushback against HAP Housing of Springfield, which purchased 586 Mill St. with the intention of building an apartment complex there. Because at least a quarter of the units would be designated as "affordable housing" — subsi-

DICIOCCIO | page 6

## Queen of the bee



Julia Hall holds up her trophy as winner of Agawam Junior High School's 2016 Geography Bee. Story and more photos, page 10. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK



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## Agawam Cultural Council to meet Jan. 17

The Agawam Cultural Council will meet Tuesday, Jan. 17, at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. The meeting is open to the public. There is no cost to join or serve.

A great opportunity exists with the Agawam Cultural Council for anyone with an interest in providing diverse cultural events for the town. This all-volunteer organization, appointed by the mayor and funded, in part, by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, is looking for new members. The Cultural Council is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.

## Bobby J'z to celebrate 10 years with classic prices from 2007

Bobby J'z Restaurant, known as the "best kept secret in town," will celebrate its 10-year anniversary in January. It is open seven days a week during the day and serves breakfast, home-cooked dinners and fresh fish on Friday nights.

"I would like to show my customers appreciation by bringing back a few deals from when I first opened," said Mary Jane Jensen, owner.

From Jan. 2 through Jan. 6, a

breakfast dish called the "222" will be offered for \$2.22. It includes two eggs, two strips of bacon, two pieces of toast and home fries. In addition, Jensen's famous "Bobbie burger" will be available for \$1.50, as well as the Friday night fish and chips dinner at buy one, get one half-price. All specials for the week will be dine-in only.

The restaurant is at 1668 Main St., Agawam, across from Six Flags New England.

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20 PAGES

## PeoplesBank promotes 3 from Agawam

HOLYOKE — PeoplesBank recently promoted three Agawam residents to leadership roles.

Michelle Chase was promoted to assistant vice president and Consumer and Business Banking Center manager. She previously served as Consumer and Business Banking Center manager. Chase has more than 15 years of banking experience. A resident of Agawam, she holds a master of business administration in entrepreneurial thinking and innovation design from Bay Path University and a bachelor of arts in psychology from the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. Chase is a member of the Young Professionals Society, a member of the board of directors of the Greater Westfield Chamber of Commerce, serves on the events committee of the Springfield Boys and Girls Club, is a member of the ReStore advisory council, and serves on the Bay Path University Alumni Association Council.

Erinn Young of Agawam was promoted to deposit operations officer. Young formerly served as assistant vice president and branch manager of the Longmeadow office. She has 20 years of banking experience and a bachelor of science in executive management from Bay Path University. She is a director of Cancer Free Kids Inc., a professional advisory board member for Rachel's Table, and an advisory



Michelle Chase



Lori Stickles



Erinn Young

board member for the West of the River Family Center.

Lori Stickles was appointed branch manager for Longmeadow. She has more than 18 years of banking experience. A resident of Feeding Hills, Stickles serves as volunteer treasurer of the West of the River Chamber of Commerce, the West of the River Family Center, and the Agawam Housing Authority Board of Commissioners.

PeoplesBank, based in Holyoke, has 17 branches in Western Massachusetts, including Longmeadow, West Springfield and Westfield.

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**YMCA ■ from page 1**

mer camp in Agawam, and his experience building up the Scantic Valley YMCA — which also took some time to find its niche in the community, but now functions as a successful suburban branch.

That all came to a halt a month later. In a move described as a sudden surprise by Agawam Y supporters — even Mineo and Mayor Richard Cohen — Berg announced in March that the Springfield Y would close its Agawam branch, effective June 1.

At first, local leaders simply lamented that Springfield officials hadn't given the Agawam branch a proper chance to establish itself in town, or enough time to raise funds and memberships. It became clear at several board meetings, however, that members wanted the Advisory Board to try and save the Agawam Y, by partnering with a different YMCA or some other nonprofit.

"I really wanted to see the family center succeed," said Mineo. "The Y pulled out of here very quickly and we had a lot of members that wanted to keep coming here."

By the end of March, the Agawam branch's board and staff were in negotiations with an unnamed nonprofit organization, later revealed to be Valley Opportunity Council of Holyoke. When the YMCA pulled its sponsorship on May 31, the newly renamed West of the River Family Center didn't miss a day of operations. The 61 Springfield St. lease, the equipment and the staff remained in place.

**Decline and fall**

Membership numbers, however, already below a YMCA target for profitability that had never been met, had suffered during the weeks of uncertainty about the Agawam branch's future.

"We were really happy and we really were hopeful the membership would grow," said Mineo. "But the transition and the summer caused us to lose some members."

Local leaders were convinced that the right business plan could succeed in Agawam, even without YMCA sponsorship.

"We had received feedback that residents really wanted a family center," said Cohen. "And so the town worked to establish one. But the membership did not follow. They did not show up."

In addition to VOC, Mineo drew on local donors to keep family center open while waiting for local revenues to turn a profit. One of the donors was Elizabeth Grimaldi, of Grimaldi-Burzdak Real Estate, who had been an ardent supporter of the Agawam

YMCA. She gave the West of the River Family Center an initial donation of \$2,100 and continued to stay involved throughout the year. She was present in December when the board made the decision to close.

"It's very sad," she said. "Joe and the board did such a wonderful job trying to keep the doors open."

Even with membership fees and private donations, Valley Opportunity Council had to foot more than half of the bills for the five months that the family center was open.

Mineo was relentless, Cohen said. He was determined to help the family center succeed and did not give up.

"He put in so many hours of his own time trying to turn things around there," said Cohen. "It just was not meant to be."

Mineo does not have any regrets, and did not pinpoint an exact reason why the membership did not grow, but said he was very sad when the board had to make the decision to close.

"I was here every morning at 6:30 a.m.," he said. "I would come and work out and I would see members who were loyal. A family center was something I thought this town needed. It was also one of my goals I had when I became a city councilor almost 20 years ago. We made attempts. We put it out there. We had a fundraiser. The members just did not come."

The West of the River Family Center is set to close on Friday, Dec. 30. Former members were informed on Dec. 20 that the center was closing following the Dec. 15 decision of the board.

In a letter to members, the family center board reported that Stick Time "saw too many financial and logistical uncertainties" to go ahead with the move.

Stick Time Sports owner Sean Provost said this month that he became uneasy about the proposed partnership — which had been in talks for months — when he finally had a chance in November to review the West of the River Family Center's membership numbers and monthly deficit. Accommodating the family center at Stick Time would have meant thousands of dollars of renovations, as well as foregoing rental revenue at one of his indoor artificial turf fields.

Provost said though he did not want to enter into a partnership with West of the River, he would attempt to serve some of its members with programming similar to the family center, such as exercise classes and children's programs.



In February, Greater Springfield YMCA President Scott Berg, left, stands with Agawam YMCA Advisory Board Chairman Joseph Mineo, and Andrew Melendez, the local branch's executive director. FILE PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY



The West of the River Family Center lasted just six months after taking over from the Agawam YMCA, which had lasted 17 months. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

**KIND ■ from page 1**

started as a small project has been uplifting," said Balzano, who recalls seeing a pallet-sized Be Kind sign one day. "To find out that other community members had gone out of their way to spread the message in a 'big' way was inspiring."

"Shocked" at the project's success, Balzano said the families never expected the support and response they received once it hit social media. When the project to counter hate and bullying kicked off in July, they envisioned just making and painting about 50 signs. They never expected requests to come flooding in or that they would make and deliver signs almost daily for three weeks.

"It was only because we put our paintbrushes down to allow our families to have the end of summer that we slowed down. Requests still come in for signs," said Balzano, who also had a do-it-yourself sign-making booth at National Night Out in August.

Among her proudest moments: watching more than 20 youngsters from age 5 to 15 — who believed in the message — spend 90-degree summer days in her driveway and in their yards cutting wood, painting base colors, and hammering signs together. Spots of "Be Kind" blue paint in her driveway are a daily reminder of that effort.

It all began because Balzano's children, Maddie, 8, and Billy, 13, were struggling to understand current events in the summer of 2016: police shootings, protests, coarse rhetoric in an election year. Maddie asked: "Why can't people be kind?"

The answer was to make a small sign based on something Balzano had seen in her hometown of Stratford, Conn. They put one in their yard and their friends' yards as a reminder to "be kind." It became a mantra for the Balzanos — and began one of their most positive experiences.

**Delivering kindness**

Maddie's favorite part of the project was delivering signs around town to spread the message of kindness. "It's made people kinder — I've seen it with my own eyes," she said.

"People were really thankful when we delivered the signs," added Billy. "People are being nicer because of this."

Be Kind parent Julie Vooy's isn't surprised at the success: "Everyone wants to be a good person, but sometimes we need a reminder to get us out of our tunnel vision and help others."

Vooy's said her family of six has become more "helpful and mindful" of each other.

"It also motivated my kids to donate all our Disney World savings — not a whole lot yet, but it looked like a lot to them — to the Springfield Rescue Mission."

Another Be Kind parent, Wendy Rua, a School Committee member with three school-age children, said the schools have embraced the movement and have helped to spread the message with signs, bulletin boards, and Buddy Benches.

"What's especially wonderful for our Be Kind kids is that they've seen firsthand the difference they've made when they look at the signs and bulletin boards at their schools," she added.

**Kids being kinder**

One of those kids, 10-year-old Abby Polley, said she sees kids behaving differently.

"At recess, one kid fell and another one helped him up," she recalled.

Kasey Fillion, 5, also said other kids are now kinder at school: "When we're on the rug, they sit nice and listen to the teacher."

Her brother Lucas, 9, said his class made a bulletin board saying it's cool to be kind.

"Hopefully, when kids walk by our door, they'll see and read our 'cool to be kind' poster and be kinder," he said.

Joe and Shane Typrocwicz, ages 13 and 10, said they've seen more kindness among younger kids — and hope it will soon have an impact with older students.

First grader Sam Wolfe, 6, said the project reminds people to be "kinder and more respectful" to each other. He added that when he sat on a Buddy Bench at his school another student came over to play with him.

While the Buddy Benches will likely last longer than the signs — the wood will eventually rot, or signs will be damaged — Balzano said the simple message of Be Kind will live on for years.

One of the biggest impacts she has noticed is more people on the Agawam Forum on Facebook reminding each other to "Be Kind" when disagreements arise.

"To know that two simple words have spread this far ... wow!"

**Happy New Year!**

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# Opinion

## OUR VIEW

### A letter from the editor – Thanks!

As your local newspaper in Agawam and Feeding Hills, the Agawam Advertiser News is the only news source that focuses squarely on your hometown. But we admit it — we appreciate all the help.

Most of the little tidbits that fill the small spaces on the inside of the paper — the club meetings, the church suppers, the youth sports photos — start out as press releases forwarded to us by a club member, a church secretary, a team parent or, simply, a loyal reader who saw something interesting and wanted to make sure we knew about it, too. If you know about a team or a church or a club or any event that we haven't covered in the past, give us a call or drop us an email — we want to cover it, we probably just didn't know about it yet. Nine times out of ten, if you send us a writeup or a photo of something happening in Agawam, we'll be glad to print it.

Like any local business, we depend on the patronage of our neighbors. So here's a "thank you" to our fellow Agawam businesses who advertise in the Advertiser News, and to our subscribers and newsstand customers who pay for our print edition. And extra thanks for the folks who buy a copy of the paper ... and then spend the rest of their money at one of our advertiser's businesses.

On this editorial page, we especially thank all the local letter writers and columnists who shared their views with us over the past 12 months. Thanks to the Rev. Richard Adams, Agawam Beautification Committee, Agawam Zero Waste Club, Jay Berger, Margaret Bilodeau, George Bitzas, Pastor Ken Blanchard, Janet Brown, Nikki Callini, Jay Cameron, Marcia E. Capuano, David Cecchi, James Cichetti, William Clark, Therese M. Clifford, Stephen Estee, Linda Galarneau, Meleen Gaynor, Brian D. Halla, the Rev. Harvey Hill, Christa Leigh Hurley, Robyn Iserman, Teresa Kozloski, Adrienne M. LaBarre, William J. LeBlanc Jr., Anne Liptak, Noreen Little, James Loomis, Ann Macey, Mark Maczka, Mike Marieb, Roberta McQuaid, Donna Mendonca, Susan Meunier, Joseph Mineo, Antonia Moore, Sara B. Moriarty, Mary Ellen Morissette, Kathleen A. Mouneimneh, Mary Murray, the "No Named Ninjas," Bob Olmstead, the Rev. Brad Peterson, the Phillips Family, Joelle Phillips, the Rev. Tim Reed, Bob Rossi, Christian M. Rua, Victor J. Rufo, Rosemary Sandlin, Joe Sarkis, John Schuler, Janet Shannon, William J. Smidt, Sarah Stone, Cheryl Tarramagra, Mario and Rebecca Tedeschi, the Trustees of the Captain Charles Leonard House, Pamela Weingart, Darrell Weldon, Walt Willard and Corinne M. Wingard.

To all who wrote, thanks again, and we're looking forward to reading what you have to say in 2016. And to everyone else — we want to hear from you, too. Let your neighbors know what you think about the day's news. Send your letter to the editor to Agawam Advertiser News, 380 Union St., West Springfield, MA 01089, or email [aan@turley.com](mailto:aan@turley.com).

It is your newspaper, after all. So tell us what you think!

## Let us know

The Agawam Advertiser News, your community newspaper, welcomes letters, submissions, photographs and news tips from residents of Agawam and Feeding Hills.

The best way to contact us is by telephone, 413-786-7747, or email, [aan@turley.com](mailto:aan@turley.com).

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Our office is open Monday through Thursday mornings, and other weekday times by appointment.



## Letters to the Editor

### Family would like to thank its 'hometown heroes'

On Oct. 22 of this year, my husband Frank went into cardiac arrest while coaching the Agawam Youth Football Pee Wee Team at Bullens Field in Westfield. If it were not for the quick response of coaches, nurses from the stands, and the Westfield Fire Department EMTs, my husband would not be with us today. The following days of recovery and eventually open-heart surgery for my husband were, needless to say, quite surreal for my family and I. However, through this difficult time, we have felt very blessed and fortunate for those around us and for the wonderful outpouring of support for our family. These people and organizations are truly our hometown heroes, whom my family would like to publicly thank.

We are forever grateful to the Agawam Youth Football organization. You are all truly "more than a team but a family." Your contributions and your concern for my husband were overwhelming. Thank you to the Pee Wee players — your cards, pictures, and posters throughout Coach Frank's hospital room provided him the emotional support and motivation to recover so quickly.

To Mr. Dave Dematteo and Ms. Dawn Duby — thank you for being there when I arrived at the hospital. You, along with the other members of the coaching staff who never left my side, were a tremendous support group to me and my sons during those first few trying hours.

Thank you to Lucia and the Liquori Piza family for donating and selling all of the T-shirts that helped us defray some of the medical expenses we incurred — we are indebted to you.

Thank you to the Stratton family, who without hesitation, drove hours to get both of my sons home from college so they could be with their father.

Thank you to Dean and Peter Vecchiarelli, who sent a landscaper to our home to complete the fall cleanup — what a truly great gift.

To my colleagues at Agawam Junior High School — you are a tremendous and caring group of people. I am proud to work beside you each and every day.

Most importantly, to Mr. Michael Sibilja, my husband's assistant coach — you were his guardian angel on that tragic day. Your quick decisions and precise actions on the field, along with the help of others, saved his life. We can never repay you.

Finally, thank you to the countless people who sent cards, gift baskets, donated, and kept my family in their prayers — you are not forgotten. Agawam is without a doubt a wonderful community, and we are proud to call this town our home. May you all have a happy and more importantly, healthy New Year.

**The DeStefano Family**

Frank, Jennifer, Nicholas and Michael

### Members sought for town's ADA Commission

The Agawam Disability Commission celebrates 12 years of advocating for our disabled citizens and families. We would like to fill several vacancies on the commission.

The Agawam Commission on Disabilities was formed in April 2004 by Mayor Richard Cohen to implement the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The purpose of this advisory council is to address the difficulties that people with disabilities have when they navigate obstacles in their surroundings. The challenges people must overcome are sometimes not apparent to the general public. Being able to navigate a curb, to cross a street, or to move down a sidewalk, can be taken for granted. Imagine if you were in a wheelchair, in need of a walker, visually impaired, deaf or hard of hearing. Disabilities such as these can be challenges that would prevent you from venturing out.

The Agawam Commission on Disabilities is here to try to correct any accessibility issues that occur in our town. We have the ability and means to help direct businesses to improve their access points and to advise the town of difficult situations, as

well as make grants to businesses for such improvements. For individuals who need accessibility but cannot afford it, we can direct them to other resources in our community. We are able to help individuals who have become disabled and find it difficult to access their own homes.

The 2016 Agawam Disability Commissioners include Jean Carter, chairperson; Frank Mazzei, vice chairperson; Michael Lutat, treasurer; Ed Lacour; and Joan Linnehan, municipal liaison.

We currently have several openings for commissioners. We invite anyone who has a passion and knowledge of the disabled to join our commission. We could use your help. Also, if anyone knows of someone who needs a ramp or accessible shower installed, please come to our meetings held the second Tuesday of the month at 4 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St. I can be reached at 413-821-0604, ext. 1.

For more information, please see our website, Town of Agawam, Commissions.

**Joan Linnehan**

Senior Center director  
ADA Municipal Liaison



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must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters. All letters are subject to editing for content and space. The deadline is Monday at Noon. Please send letters to *Agawam Advertiser News*, Letters to the Editor, Attn: Teri Machia, 380 Union Street, Suite 52; West Springfield, MA 01089 or e-mail [aan@turley.com](mailto:aan@turley.com).



The *Agawam Advertiser News* (USPS 001-170) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.

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JAY SPEAKS

Green victory took 12 years

This month, the Agawam City Council passed the “stretch code,” pertaining to building requirements for home construction, allowing Agawam to become a “Green Community” in the commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Under the Green Community designation, Agawam can be eligible for grants and awards totaling as much as \$500,000 in a year for energy conservation. It can take the form of new windows, new boilers for the schools, insulation, solar panels, etc.

The Green Communities designation requires fulfilling a few other parts other than the stretch code. For example: the town should replace vehicles with electric or hybrid. The town should reduce energy consumption by 20 percent each year. Agawam should have areas where energy efficient manufacturers may be located, and a few other requirements.

Twelve years ago, the local Democratic Town Committee took on a project we called “Go Green Agawam.” It was our goal to encourage all our residents to recycle more, do more walking and bicycling, buy energy-efficient cars ... and reduce energy consumption by 20 percent.

Our first project was finding a source for inexpensive compact fluorescent bulbs. Once we had them, we sold them all over the town at fairs, bazaars, club meetings and the like. Then we moved on to a vast advertising campaign in conjunction with the local newspapers, radio and TV. We produced a subject each week on crops and flowers and grass not needing a lot of water; the use of proper insulation; and buying rain barrels that will help water your garden.

After a while, this attracted the attention of the then mayor, Susan Dawson. She recognized the value of this effort for the town and proceeded to form an Agawam Energy Commission consisting of townspeople, some councilors, a town public works employee, and the town planner.

Jill Messick, Joel Cummings and I were selected to be members of the newly formed Energy Commission. We were

tasked with carrying on the good work of “Go Green Agawam.”

About the time of the formation of the commission, the state of Massachusetts came up with the plan of “Green Communities.” Under the guidance of our town planner, we decided to apply for Green Communities. The public works people went to work on vehicles and insulation, the town planner helped out with property designation and we thought we would have no trouble with the stretch code, inasmuch as we had Bill Barry from the state put together a great package of information for the mayor and council of the value of the stretch code. Little did we know that some of the councilors in our group would be against this.

The first vote on the council was a resounding defeat. I think we lost by 7-4. Under council rules we could not bring this up again for a couple of years.

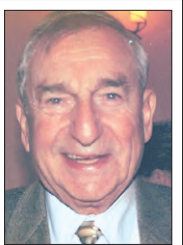
We tried lobbying with individual councilors, but the opposition to the stretch code was too severe. Even though the state requirements would exceed the city laws after a year or two, we could not seem to get traction. We lost vote after vote.

Finally, this year the mayor’s office started to calculate all the money the town was passing up without Green Communities and some of the councilors did the same. A few weeks ago, at a vote in the City Council, we won temporary victory of 8 for and 2 against. I say temporary, because one of the councilors found a loophole to call for a hearing on the stretch code.

This month, at the hearing, a member of the state builders union came and spoke for the stretch code and Bill Barry gave another epic presentation. The vote was taken and again and it was reaffirmed that we had 8 for and 2 against.

Victory is indeed sweet after 12 years. Thank you, Agawam council and mayor.

*Jay Berger is retired from a job in publishing and lives in Agawam with his wife Kitty. They have three children and six grandchildren.*



Jay Berger

Public Safety

FIRE LOG

The Agawam Fire Department responded to 72 EMS calls from Dec. 20 to Dec. 26, and the following emergency response calls.

On Dec. 20 at 5:53 a.m., the department responded to Columbia Drive for smoke detector activation due to malfunction.

On Dec. 20 at 11:09 a.m., the department responded to Cambridge Street for service call, other.

On Dec. 20 at 3:45 p.m., the department responded to Cardinal Drive for lockout.

On Dec. 20 at 8:01 p.m., the department responded to Paul Revere Drive for lockout.

On Dec. 21 at 7:24 a.m., the department responded to Mill Street for vehicle accident, general cleanup.

On Dec. 21 at 1:38 p.m., the department responded to Cooper Street for alarm system activation, no fire — unintentional.

On Dec. 21 at 6:41 p.m., the department responded to Walnut Street Ext. for alarm system activation, no fire — unintentional.

On Dec. 22 at 6:17 a.m., the department responded to Eastview Drive for CO detector activation due to malfunction.

On Dec. 22 at 10:34 a.m., the department responded to Main Street, was dispatched and canceled en route.

On Dec. 22 at 12:17 p.m., the department responded to Primrose Lane for carbon monoxide incident.

On Dec. 22 at 2:47 p.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for lockout.

On Dec. 22 at 2:47 p.m., the department responded to Main Street for lockout.

On Dec. 22 at 5:34 p.m., the department responded to Route 5 South for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

On Dec. 22 at 9 p.m., the department responded to Belden Court for lockout.

On Dec. 23 at 8:56 a.m., the department responded to N. Westfield Street for good intent call, other.

On Dec. 23 at 9:19 a.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for lockout.

On Dec. 23 at 3:11 p.m., the department responded to Riviera Drive for lockout.

On Dec. 24 at 3:07 p.m., the department responded to Dover Street for detector activation, no fire — unintentional.

On Dec. 25 at 10:07 a.m., the department responded to Wilbert Terrace for lockout.

On Dec. 25 at 10:50 a.m., the department responded to Beekman Place for water problem, other.

On Dec. 26 at 9:46 a.m., the department responded to Mansion Woods Drive for lockout.

On Dec. 26 at 10:28 a.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for lockout.

On Dec. 26 at 8:26 p.m., the department responded to S. West Street for passenger vehicle fire.

POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department’s arrest logs for Dec. 13-26 were not received in time for the Agawam Advertiser News’ deadline. The logs will be printed in a future edition.

Free ‘Diet Awareness’ class begins Feb. 5

Bethany Assembly of God, in conjunction with Faith Community Nursing, will offer a “Diet Awareness” class Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 11 a.m. beginning the week of Feb. 5. Participants will learn how to lose weight while continuing to eat foods they enjoy.

To register, call Bethany Assembly of God at 413-789-2930 or sign in at the hospitality desk in the church foyer. The church is at 580 Main St., Agawam.

For more information, visit [www.bethany-ag-org](http://www.bethany-ag-org).

Trash hauler will pick up Christmas trees next week

Republic Services will again provide a courtesy collection of Christmas trees, the Agawam Department of Public Works announced last week.

Trees will be picked up at the curb on the same day trash service is scheduled during the week of Jan. 2-5. Christmas trees 7 feet tall or larger must be cut in half and placed on the tree belt no earlier than 7 a.m. of the collection day. Trees in plastic bags will not be collected.

It is not the responsibility of the hauler to dig out trees buried in the snow, whether due to plowing or excessive snowfall. The regular trash truck will not collect trees; a separate truck will run the collection on the dates above.

To dispose trees prior to or after the scheduled collection day, yard waste passes for the Bondi’s Island landfill are available at the Department of Public Works, 1000 Suffield St., Agawam, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, excepting holidays.

Tickets available for Boar’s Head Festival

SPRINGFIELD — The Boar’s Head Festival, a medieval celebration of the Epiphany, will be presented at Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Sumner Ave. in Springfield, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 13, 14 and 15. Complete with period costumes, live animals and the music of the Christmas season, the Boar’s Head Festival celebrates the birth of Christ, the coming of the three kings, and the triumph of light over darkness in our world.

For more information, call the ticket office at 413-733-4759. Tickets, which are \$25 for adults and \$15 for children ages 5 to 12, are now on sale.

GAS ■ from page 1

“They’ve been a very good neighbor,” said Fire Chief Alan Sirois.

Pipeline breakdowns are rare. The pipes are monitored by computer and inspected regularly. Kinder Morgan employees visually check the company’s right-of-way by aircraft, ground vehicle and on foot. Kennedy said breakdowns account for 0.5 percent of pipeline failures; natural disasters cause another 0.5 percent. Ninety-nine percent of failures are caused by contractors or homeowners puncturing a pipe with digging equipment.

“It’s so easy to go out and rent yourself a piece of equipment,” Kennedy said. “A lot of people don’t even know that the pipeline is there.”

In order to make more people aware of the pipeline, Kinder Morgan installed yellow poles along the gas line’s path more than a year ago. These markers were mandated by the federal government and show the approximate location, within 2 feet, of the pipe. Included on each marker is a sticker with a telephone number to call, 24 hours a day, in case of an emergency.

Though natural gas has no odor, most gas sold to customers is treated with a chemical that gives it a “rotten eggs” smell. The gas in Kinder Morgan’s pipeline does carry that distinctive smell.

There are other ways to identify a gas leak, added Kennedy. The gas in the pipeline is under 700 to 800 pounds of pressure; a leak as wide around as a pencil “will be quite deafening,” he said.

The company also operates a compressor station in Agawam, on Suffield Street near the state line. That facility will sometimes “blow off” gas when opening or closing valves. The gas released is lighter than air and will disperse harmlessly in the atmosphere, Kennedy said. To minimize the disturbance to neighbors, Kinder Morgan will mask the sulfurous smell with a more pleasing odor, such as a pine or orange cream scent.

Kinder Morgan isn’t the only natural gas pipeline serving New England, but it is the only one that runs lines through Agawam. The pipes were built in the 1950s, and some sections still feature the original steel pipes. A small electrical charge inhibits rust, Kennedy said.

Gas from the Gulf Coast — or from the Marcellus shale deposits of Pennsylvania — arrives in Agawam from the west. At the compressor station, the pipeline splits, with the main line continuing east toward Boston, and a “loop” line running south through Suffield to serve three natural gas utilities in Connecticut. Kinder Morgan provides the natural gas for Columbia Gas, the natural gas utility that serves Agawam and Feeding Hills.

DEATH NOTICES

**Bator, Wanda M.**  
Died Dec. 22  
Funeral Dec. 27  
Curran-Jones Funeral Home  
Agawam

**Frasco, Florence**  
Died Dec. 23  
Funeral Dec. 30  
Colonial Forastiere Funeral  
Home of Agawam

**McCormack, Mary E.**  
Died Dec. 21  
Funeral Dec. 27  
Curran-Jones Funeral Home  
Agawam

**Romeo, Lillian**  
Died Dec. 23  
Funeral Dec. 28  
Colonial Forastiere Funeral  
Home of Agawam

**Vignato, Carla E.**  
Died Dec. 23  
Funeral Dec. 27  
Toomey-O’Brien Funeral  
Home  
West Springfield

Agawam Advertiser News

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$75, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

*Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.*



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DICIOCCIO ■ from page 1

dized for families earning 80 percent of the region's median income — HAP would be able to circumvent Agawam's zoning laws.

DiCioccio brought together neighbors and HAP representatives for a July 10 meeting at her house, lobbied city councilors and state legislators, and later organized an online petition asking the council to block HAP by buying the Mill Street parcel as conservation land. The petition received more than 500 signatures at Change.org.

As 2016 draws to a close, however, what was once a spirited grassroots movement has largely broken up and DiCioccio has stepped back from the leadership role. HAP itself has been largely silent, as well. The agency informed Mayor Richard Cohen's office that it plans to submit plans for a housing project under Chapter 40B of state law, but nothing has been filed yet. HAP demolished the farmhouse on the property last month, but the next update could be a while away, Cohen said.

"The last communication I had with HAP was that any building would be several years out," he said this week.

DiCioccio was disappointed by the City Council's failure to take a vote on the Change.org petition, which called for the town to use Community Preservation Act funds to buy the land, and offer HAP a portion of the Tuckahoe Turf Farm property off South West Street, which is near the end of a bus line, instead.

HAP opponents said they were not against affordable housing in principle, but objected to the Mill Street site. The additional traffic on an already busy street, and lack of sidewalk infrastructure linking it to shopping, parks and transit lines, would create a burden on neighbors and public safety, they said. Schools and the sewer system could also be strained, they warned.

DiCioccio's group also objected to HAP's

plans to offer affordable housing units in a non-weighted lottery, without any preference given to current Agawam residents.

Though the petition was certified by Town Clerk Vincent Gioscia, the council rejected it because it did not accept online signatures. They requested a new petition be filed, but none was submitted before the end of the year.

"Online petitions are very valid and accepted by most forms of government," said DiCioccio.

HAP officials attended one workshop meeting of the City Council in late July, and said they were not interested in selling the property.

DiCioccio is not sure what the future holds for the anti-HAP movement, but the experience of 2016 has taught her a lot.

"I have actually learned some lessons in the HAP situation," she said. "I experienced first-hand the lack of communication between our town elected officials themselves, and between the residents. I have learned there are a lot of families who all have town jobs, qualified or not, and most importantly, I learned to fact-check everything I'm told by any town official, as they told me what they thought I wanted to hear more than once. I feel let down and disappointed in our council, especially for not discussing our over 500-signature petition. Most signatures were residents."

She said she may consider a run herself for City Council.

"Our council needs members who are younger, new ideas, and truly care about this town," she said.

After being rejected by the council, the anti-HAP group's efforts wound down and DiCioccio says that many of the anti-HAP supporters have not done anything other than purchase some "Save 586 Mill Street" signs to display on their lawns.



"Save 586 Mill Street" signs are displayed in front of a handful of homes on Mill Street and some of the surrounding side streets supporting the preservation of the property from development as affordable housing.



What is now an empty lot at 586 Mill St. became the center of controversy in town this summer—and a chance for Feeding Hills resident Kristin DiCioccio to make her voice heard. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

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42								43	

**CLUES ACROSS**  
1. Way to fish  
4. Not us  
8. "M\*A\*S\*H" actor Alda  
10. A store of valuable things  
11. Bring on  
12. Gave birth to horse  
13. British poet Hunt  
15. Swine-like  
16. Asteroid 1532  
17. Devout  
18. A boost  
21. Licensed for Wall Street  
22. Tooth caregiver  
23. Political action committee  
24. Make a soft murmuring sound  
25. Porky is one

**CLUES DOWN**  
26. Taoism  
27. 1950s sex symbol  
34. Imprisonment  
35. Small freshwater ducks  
36. Happening later than it should have  
37. Unit of measurement  
38. Coen Bros' "The Dude" does this  
39. The destroyer (Hindu)  
40. Kids take these to school  
41. Flow or leak through  
42. East Greenwich High School  
43. Midway between south and southeast

**CLUES DOWN**  
1. Many-colored flower  
2. Strangers  
3. One who is outcast  
4. Transmitters  
5. Theory of interconnection  
6. Happening  
7. Native of ancient Asian kingdom  
9. Black (Span.)  
10. Destructive storm  
12. Condemn beforehand  
14. Baseball players do this  
15. Exclamation that denotes disgust  
17. When you expect to get there

**CLUES DOWN**  
19. Dreams up  
20. Peacock network  
23. Robbers  
24. Beverage container  
25. Celebrations  
26. A way to change color  
27. Bullheaded  
28. Type of visual display  
29. Easily purchased type of medication  
30. City along the western Rhine  
31. Animal disease  
32. Martinis have these  
33. Run away from  
34. Remove errors  
36. Slugger Ruth

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2016

YEAR IN REVIEW

2016

# The year out in front

By Michael J. Ballway  
mballway@turley.com

This is the 52nd edition of the Agawam Advertiser News in 2016, and each issue has featured the top stories from our town on the front page. Here's a look back at one of those cover stories for each week of the past year:

## January

**Jan. 7:** James Cichetti and Joseph Mineo were chosen as the new president and vice president of the City Council, replacing Christopher Johnson and Dennis Perry.

**Jan. 14:** Facing criticism by merchants, planners have revised the proposed Walnut Street Extension shopping district to keep parking spaces closer to storefronts.

**Jan. 21:** Agawam High School's "Best Buddies" program brings intellectually and developmentally disabled students together socially with other students.

**Jan. 28:** Student artwork was recently installed on a previously bare wall at the Agawam Post Office, creating a new showcase for the public schools.



January: Derek Aldrich, 7, shows off his finished "memory journal" at an Agawam Public Library craft program. FILE PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



January: The new Express Care medical office opens in Feeding Hills Center, even as neighbors fight the two other components of the plaza — a drive-through Dunkin' Donuts and Holyoke Credit Union — in court. Both would be completed later in 2016. FILE PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY



February: Elizabeth Caracciolo, at right, was named the town's St. Patrick's Day Colleen. She is pictured with her Colleen court at the Chez Josef coronation ceremony. FILE PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



March: Students at Roberta Doering School salute the funeral procession for Virginia police officer Ashley Guindon, a former Agawam resident killed on her first day on duty. FILE PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY



March: Patrons chose Leo the Lion (pictured with Children's Librarian Pam Weingart) as the Agawam Public Library's new mascot, beating out Moe the Mouse and Murphy the Monster. FILE PHOTO

## February

**Feb. 4:** Theory Skate Shop has secured a \$10,000 donation by shoe and apparel company Converse to make improvements at the Agawam Skate Park, at Shea Field.

**Feb. 11:** In time for Valentine's Day, the library's "Blind Date with a Book" invites patrons to discover their next read without knowing its title or author.

**Feb. 18:** Agawam Motel, labeled a "nuisance property" by the town, is closed and sold to Colvest Group, a private developer. It would later be demolished.

**Feb. 25:** Vincent Gioscia moves from the city solicitor's office to the city clerk's office, replacing Richard Theroux, who had retired after 33 years on the job.

## March

**March 3:** In a portrait of what was to come, Donald Trump was a winner in the presidential primary vote in town, and Hillary Clinton was a loser (in a close race with Bernie Sanders).

**March 10:** The Agawam Municipal Golf Course, after years of red ink, finally reports it is making enough profit to begin paying back its loans from the general budget.

**March 17:** The Red Cross honored Agawam teen Sydney Bryden, whose quick thinking saved the life of her boyfriend Antonio Bruno when he fell off a quarry cliff in 2015.

**March 34:** The town mourns Roberta Doering, a fixture on the School Committee since 1970 and namesake of the middle school, who died at age 91.

**March 31:** Advisory Board members are hopeful that they can keep the Agawam YMCA's doors open despite the Springfield Y's plans to shut it down.

## April

**April 7:** "This a great day for Agawam," Mayor Richard Cohen said, as developer David Peter closed on his purchase of the contaminated Games and Lanes site.

**April 14:** Brian Burbank, the runner-up in the 2015 election, is selected in a 15-0 vote to take Roberta Doering's seat on the School Committee.

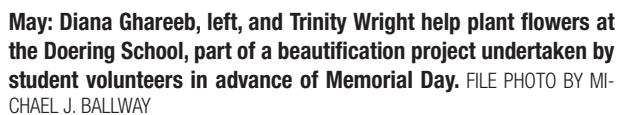
YEAR IN REVIEW | page 8



April: From left, Bev Cotto, Sarah Brittain and Christina Beauchemin share a laugh at "Thursday Night Therapy: Ladies Night Out," a party with food, drinks, shopping and massages which replaced the usual fashion show as the Agawam Junior Women's Club's main annual fundraiser. FILE PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK

2016

**May 26:** The Military Order of the Purple Heart held a dedication ceremony for the 15 Purple Heart Trail signs honoring veterans along Main Street.



**June 30:** The high school's first graduates, the Class of 1956, return for a reunion and donate a framed class portrait to hang in the lobby.

**July 28:** There are no plans to develop the town-owned Tuckahoe Turf Farm property in Feeding Hills, according to the mayor and town planner.

**Aug. 25:** Nicholas Bernier, the new principal at Robinson Park School, is excited and anxious about the upcoming start of the school year.

**Sept. 15:** Former state Rep. Rosemary Sandlin garners 500 primary election write-in votes to win the Democratic nomination to run against state Rep. Nicholas Boldyga.

**July: Warren Miodowski, left, talks about his Jeep Wrangler during the town's first-ever Wicked Jeep Night, organized by Bob Alves to benefit Mercy Medical Center. FILE PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK**

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2016

YEAR IN REVIEW

2016

**Sept. 22:** The City Council rejects an online petition opposing the planned HAP housing project on Mill Street, saying it will only accept hand-signed paper petitions.

**Sept. 29:** DNA analysis has produced a composite image of the rapist and murderer of Lisa Ziegert, an Agawam teacher killed in 1992 whose case has never been solved.

#### October

**Oct. 6:** Three police officers have been placed on paid leave after a “use of force incident” at Agawam Police Headquarters. The officers were later fired, but details of the case were not released.

**Oct. 13:** Though the new AHS football field is open, the grandstand isn’t ready yet. Temporary bleachers were installed for the first home game, Oct. 10.

**Oct. 20:** Students and teachers are giving rave reviews to the newly renovated auditorium at Agawam Junior High School.

**Oct. 27:** Doering School students are raising money to fund Wreaths Across America, a holiday wreath-laying event, at the state veterans cemetery.

#### November

**Nov. 3:** Most of the “blight” properties identified in 2015 are still on the list, despite a stronger code enforcement ordinance.

**Nov. 10:** School Committee member Anthony Bonavita says elected officials are underpaid, and proposes raises for the school board, City Council and mayor.

**Nov. 17:** The West of the River Family Center announces it will move into space at Stick Time Sports. The move did not happen; the family center instead will close.

**Nov. 24:** Councilors vote to purchase standardized trash and recycling totes for all Agawam homes, as a means of encouraging recycling and increasing efficiency.



October: Soldier On, a veterans housing community at the former police academy on South Westfield Street, holds its official groundbreaking. FILE PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY



August: Shelley Borgatti-Reed stands with a dispatcher after delivering food as part of a community “meal train” to show appreciation for police. FILE PHOTO



October: Agawam’s Mark Del Negro, left, took a break from filmmaking to stage New England Scare Fest, a haunted village, for Halloween. FILE PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY



September: Heavy rains forced the town’s Sept. 11 commemoration indoors for the first time ever. During an election year, speakers stressed the need for Americans to unite around shared values. FILE PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY



October: Students raise the flag for the first time at the rebuilt Harmon Smith Field, part of a reconstruction of Agawam High School’s athletic fields. FILE PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK

#### December

**Dec. 1:** The City Council is frustrated over reported break-ins at the Games and Lanes property, but the developer says the building is secure and cleanup should be done in the spring.

**Dec. 8:** Sewer rates are going up, for the first time since 2012, the town’s DPW director says. The new rates will be phased in over the next six years, ending up 61 percent higher.

**Dec. 15:** Federal, state and local authorities raided two “massage parlors” in town, arresting their operators on charges of prostitution and human trafficking.

**Dec. 22:** Councilors reject proposed raises for the mayor and School Committee; they do not vote on any changes to their own stipend, either.



November: Voters cast ballots at Town Hall during the state’s first-ever two-week “early voting” period before the presidential election. FILE PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY



November: William Clark, right, adds his comments to a discussion on sidewalk needs at a public forum hosted by the town’s Engineering Department. FILE PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY



December: Fire Chief Alan Sirois presents a certificate to fourth-grade student Joseph Cullane, who won a contest to name the AFD’s new ambulance, “Knight of Valor.” FILE PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK

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# Youth

## Eighth grader takes Geo Bee crown

*Teachers hope annual geography competition gives students a global perspective*

By Mike Lydick  
aan@turley.com

**E**ighth grader Julia Hall is the newest champion in the competition that tests students' knowledge of places and things around the world.

The 13-year-old had the most correct answers among 10 Agawam Junior High School students who took to the school's stage on Dec. 22 to compete in the school's annual National Geographic Geography Bee. AJHS was among more than 10,000 schools holding Geo Bees that test students on their geographic knowledge.

While Julia modestly claimed her Geo Bee championship was "mostly luck," she said she spent time studying books to become more familiar with geographic facts that she might be asked. The competition is designed to encourage more student interest in geography and increase public awareness about geography.

The 10 finalists were determined by the results of a preliminary test that all AJHS students took in November. The test is so challenging that even some teachers don't answer all the questions correctly.

Finalists were allowed only two incorrect answers. Students who answered incorrectly twice had to leave the stage and were eliminated from the competition.

After the other eight finalists were eliminated, only Julia and Kaitlin Winters, 13, also an eighth grader, were left on stage. They then competed one-on-one.

Julia was declared the winner when she correctly answered that Nepal is the mountainous Asian country that's home to snow leopards — large cats native to the mountain ranges of Central and South Asia and an endangered species.

As the champion, Julia received a medal and a book. Both she and Kaitlin also got Barnes & Noble gift cards. Julia's name will soon be engraved on a plaque displayed in the school's lobby that includes the names of previous Geo Bee champions.

In early 2017, she will take an online qualifying test to determine if she will be eligible to compete in the state-level Geo Bee that determines who will participate in the national Geography Bee to be held in Washington, D.C., in May. The winner of the national competition, which National Geographic started in 1989, will receive a \$50,000 scholarship.

In addition to Julia and Kaitlin, this year's finalists included eighth graders Maddie Braska, 13, David Dagenais, 13, Hannah Davydov, 13, Kiley Sheehan, 13,



**Social studies teacher Curtis Miarecki, who served as moderator for the bee, confers with social studies teacher Rebecca Kelley to confirm the scoring. Students were eliminated from the competition if they answered two questions incorrectly.**

and Steven Steinbock, 14, as well as seventh graders Taylor Cotton, 13, Alison Davenport, 13, and Domenic Vecchiarelli, 13.

Curtis Miarecki, who has taught social studies at AJHS for nearly a decade, volunteered to serve as this year's moderator. At past Geo Bees he has been up in a booth in the auditorium coordinating the audio for the event while former teacher Nick Bernier moderated.

"When Nick left to become principal at Robinson Park, he left some big shoes to fill and I felt that it was an opportunity for me to step up and help out our department," said Miarecki.

At the 2015 Geo Bee, a scoring error caused two students to be named co-champions. Miarecki said this year's Geo Bee went exactly as planned.

"Prior to the Bee, we had several meetings as a department to ensure that we were on the same page with every little detail," he said. "Those meetings allowed our department to feel comfortable with the procedures and allowed for a well-run event."

Karen Albano, an eighth grade social studies teacher and the school's Common Core facilitator, said this year she asked AJHS staff to share photos from their local, national, and international travels for a new slideshow that ran at the beginning and the end of the Geo Bee. The staff shared more than 100 pictures of places they had visited — from photos at the base camp of Mount Everest to a camel ride outside the pyramids of Giza.

"I feel strongly that our students need to think about the world through a global perspective. I hope that they enjoyed seeing how their teachers have taken the time to get out and see the world," she added.



**Mayor Richard Cohen, who serves as chairman of the School Committee, joins the 10 Geo Bee finalists on stage with their social studies teachers and Junior High Assistant Principal Michael Donovan, far right.**



**Alison Davenport, Taylor Cotton and David Dagenais, three of the 10 finalists at the Geo Bee, write answers on a whiteboard during an early round of the competition.**



**Geo Bee runner-up Kaitlin Winters and social studies teacher Karen Albano, at left, applaud Julia Hall as she is being informed by teacher Jennifer DeStefano, right, that she had won the competition.**



**Social studies teacher Jennifer DeStefano poses with Julia Hall, left, the Agawam Junior High School Geography Bee champion, and Kaitlin Winters, the runner-up. TURLEY PUBLICATION PHOTOS BY MIKE LYDICK**



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# Kindergarten readiness talk next month

The Agawam Family and Community Program will host “Keys to Kindergarten” Tuesday, Jan. 24, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library. Staff members from Agawam public schools will discuss the myths and realities of what kindergarten readiness means.

The program will include information on what children “should” know to be successful in kindergarten. This event is designed for Agawam families with children that will be 5 years old prior to Sept. 1. This is an informational night only and kindergarten registrations will not be accepted.

For more information, contact Michelle Connery, outreach coordinator, at 413-821-0597 or email [mconnery@agawampublicschools.org](mailto:mconnery@agawampublicschools.org). Funding for the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant is provided by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

The library is at 750 Cooper St., Agawam.



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## Toys from tots

The children at Jump Start Preschool on Springfield Street collected several boxes of toys over the past month to deliver to children in the hospital. On Thursday, Dec. 22, they loaded a truck to take the 80 toys to Baystate Hospital in Springfield. “The kids learned the importance of giving back to the community and participated in organizing and distributing the toys,” says Rachelle Hannoush. Pictured at left, Hannoush delivers the toys with a hospital nurse and Connor Sullivan, 3. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



## School Lunch

**AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL**  
**Monday, Jan. 2:** No school.  
**Tuesday, Jan. 3:** Baked chicken patty on a bun, Tater Tots, seasoned corn, fresh and chilled fruit.  
**Wednesday, Jan. 4:** Chicken filet wrap with as-sorted sauce, served with lettuce, tomato and cheese, side of pasta salad, fresh and chilled fruit.  
**Thursday, Jan. 5:** Fresh assorted calzones, garden salad with light dressing, fresh and chilled fruit.  
**Friday, Jan. 6:** General Tso’s chicken, steamed rice, seasoned broccoli, assorted fruit, orange wedges.

(cheese, lettuce, tomato, potatoes and special sauce), oven baked fries, fresh and chilled fruit. Doering and Elementary – Cheese-stuffed hot pockets with dipping sauce, cucumber wedges, fresh and chilled fruit.  
**Friday, Jan. 6:** French bread pizza, salad with light dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookieie.

**AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
ROBERTA G. DOERING SCHOOL  
AGAWAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**  
**Monday, Jan. 2:** No school.  
**Tuesday, Jan. 3:** Assorted low-sugar cereal, as-sorted nutrigrain bars, cheese stick, assorted muffins, juice or milk.  
**Wednesday, Jan. 4:** Pancakes with syrup, cheese stick, assorted muffins, juice or milk.  
**Thursday, Jan. 5:** Assorted low-sugar cereal, as-sorted nutrigrain bar, mozzarella cheese, as-sorted muffins, juice or milk.  
**Friday, Jan. 6:** Assorted waffles with syrup, string cheese, fresh fruit, juice or milk.

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# SPORTS

## A look back at 2016

AGAWAM – Take a look back at some of the highlights from the 2016 high school sports action. Agawam had plenty of success throughout the year and are looking forward to continuing that in 2017.

### WINTER

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS STAFF FILE PHOTOS



Anthony Passerini negotiates the neutral zone.



Jake White tries to take down his opponent at 145 pounds.



Allison Wheeler tries to move the ball further, but Minnechaug's defense provides pressure.



Niko Passerini takes control of a loose puck in a game against Ludlow.



Bianca Culhane attempts a layup.



Myles Scott takes a shot under pressure in matchup against Chicopee Comp.



Mike Destefano gets set to pass the ball to his right.



Meghan D'Amours goes up for a shot.



Goalie Connor McAnanama guards against a shot in tight pressure.



Ceasar Alvan wrestles Agawam's Hayden Mendrala in a 132-pound match.

# Sports

SPRING

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS STAFF FILE PHOTOS



The 2016 Western Massachusetts Division I Champion Agawam Brownies.



Katie Martin makes a rush for the goal.



Joe Oliver makes a throw on the run.



Garrett Hollander goes up for a set.



Dominic Pellegrino makes a pass from behind the opposing goal.



Brett Fila tries to do defend against Minnechaug.



Star softball pitcher Allison Wheeler deals for the Brownies.



Alex Amato tries to circle around the Amherst defense.



Samantha Stratton swings and makes contact.



Max Molta makes a tag out an attempted base stealer.

# Sports

FALL

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS STAFF FILE PHOTOS



Mike Basile attempts a pass for Agawam.



Emily Oliver works in the middle of the field.



Abbey Viens kneels to make a bump.



Agawam's Alyssa Montagna fights to keep the ball.



Camille Aloisi advances with the ball.



Christian Gonet makes a run for the Brownsies.



Jonny Kelley boots the ball away.



Liz Milliken starts a play with a bump.



Taia Vivenzo looks to control play in the middle.



The Agawam football offense lines up for a play.

# Out & About

OUR CALENDAR SECTION is intended to promote free events, or those that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization. Paid events that are not deemed benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items is Monday at noon. Send to the Agawam Advertiser News at [aan@turley.com](mailto:aan@turley.com), fax to 413-786-8457, or mail to Turley Publications, 380 Union St., West Springfield, MA 01089. We usually print at least one week prior to an event. The listings should be brief with only time, date, location, activity explanation and contact information.

**Thursday, Jan. 5**

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS AT THE QUADRANGLE will present "Mr. and Mrs. Prince: How an Extraordinary 18th-Century Family Moved Out of Slavery and into Legend" featuring Professor Gretchen Holbrook Gerzina of UMass Amherst, at 12:15 in the Museum of Fine Arts, 21 Edwards St., Springfield. Admission is \$4 (\$2 for museum members). Parking is free. For information, call 413-263-6800, ext. 488.

**Friday, Jan. 6**

THE AGAWAM CULTURAL COUNCIL will present acoustic rock duo CO2 at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St. Free and open to the public. For more information, visit [www.agawamcc.org](http://www.agawamcc.org).

THE SPRINGFIELD SCIENCE MUSEUM'S large rooftop telescope will be open for public sky gazing at 7:30 p.m. as part of the "Stars Over Springfield" observatory series, rain or shine. Admission is \$3 for adults; \$2 for children 17 and under. For more information, call 413-263-6800, ext. 318.

**Wednesday, Jan. 11**

THE ELM-BELCHER MASONIC LODGE, 53 River St., Agawam offers an all-you-can-eat spaghetti supper at a cost of \$8 for adults, \$4 for children. The public is welcome.

**Thursday, Jan. 12**

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS AT THE QUADRANGLE will present "The Not-So-Good Life of the Colonial Goodwife" featuring teacher and author Velya Jancz-Urban, at 12:15 in the Museum of Fine Arts, 21 Edwards St., Springfield. Admission is \$4 (\$2 for museum members).

Parking is free. For information, call 413-263-6800, ext. 488.

**Tuesday, Jan. 17**

THE AGAWAM CULTURAL COUNCIL will meet at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. The meeting is open to the public. There is no cost to join or serve.

**Thursday, Jan. 19**

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS AT THE QUADRANGLE will present "The Republic Heritage Book Series: Eastern States Exposition Centennial, On Being Italian, and A Not So Civil War Volume II" featuring newspaper editor Wayne Phaneuf, at 12:15 in the Museum of Fine Arts, 21 Edwards St., Springfield. Admission is \$4 (\$2 for museum members). Parking is free. For information, call 413-263-6800, ext. 488.

**Thursday, Jan. 26**

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS AT THE QUADRANGLE will present "Restoring our Victorian Home: How We got There, and How We Found, Researched and Restored It" featuring Jim Boone, retired high school guidance counselor and preservationist, at 12:15 in the Museum of Fine Arts, 21 Edwards St., Springfield. Admission is \$4 (\$2 for museum members). Parking is free. For information, call 413-263-6800, ext. 488.

**ONGOING**

BEGINNER TAI CHI classes at the Southwick Senior Center on Wednesdays from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Easy stretching and slow, gentle movements that improve balance and strength and enhance the immune system. For more information, call 413-569-5498.

ADULT DROP-IN SIT & KNIT meets at the Agawam Public Library at 750 Cooper St. Tuesdays from 1-3 p.m. Bring your sticks and join other knitters for creative time. No registration is required.

GRANDPARENT'S PLAYGROUP Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., at St. David's Church, 699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. This free infant and toddler playgroup features music and movement, fostering children's interactions and sharing skills. Open to all grandparents and their grandchildren. Follows school schedule.

MOM 2 MOM takes place the second Tuesday of every month October through June, 9:30 to 11 a.m. at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St. A round-table discussion hosted by a local "veteran" mom, this is a great way to have further conversation on recent café themes and parent education events, celebrate parenting and receive encouragement for the trials.

THE WESTFIELD WOMAN'S CLUB's clubhouse is available for rentals for wedding receptions, bridal showers, baby showers, graduation celebrations, and birthday and anniversary parties by the hour or the day. For more information, call Lilian at 413-568-2916.

THE AGAWAM ST. PATRICK COMMITTEE meets the third Wednesday of each month, September through June, at 6:30 p.m. in the lower level classroom at St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main St., Agawam. For information on how to join, call Vera Conway at 413-786-3247 or email Rosemary Sandlin at [rosemarysandlin@gmail.com](mailto:rosemarysandlin@gmail.com)

ADULT DROP-IN SIT AND KNIT meets every Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. No registration needed.

AGAWAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 459 Mill St., Agawam, offers "Crochet Club" the first and third

Tuesday of each month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. This club is open to all needle-workers, including crocheters, knitters, quilters, and embroiderers. For more information, call 413-786-7991.

A BREAST CANCER AND MASTECTOMY SUPPORT GROUP meets the fourth Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at 2 South Bridge Drive, Suite 1B, Agawam. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at [www.survivorjourneys.org](http://www.survivorjourneys.org).

AN ALL CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets the first Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish Center, 1061 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at [www.survivorjourneys.org](http://www.survivorjourneys.org).

A BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP meets the second Wednesday of each month at Heritage Woods Assisted Facility, 462 Main St., Agawam. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at [www.survivorjourneys.org](http://www.survivorjourneys.org).

YOUR CAR, TRUCK OR CAMPER may be worth more as a donation than a trade-in. Call the Massachusetts Association for the Blind at 888-613-2777 for more information. Towing is free. All donations are tax deductible.

## Agawam Senior Center

**Lunch Menu**  
**Monday, Jan. 2:** Senior Center closed.  
**Tuesday, Jan. 3:** Barley soup, grilled chicken, Caesar salad, apples.  
**Wednesday, Jan. 4:** Shepherd's pie, spring salad, baked good.  
**Thursday, Jan. 5:** Quiche lorraine, hash browns, coleslaw, peaches.  
**Friday, Jan. 6:** Tuna casserole, beet salad, pudding.

**Calendar of Events**  
**Monday, Jan. 2:** Senior Center closed.  
**Tuesday, Jan. 3:** 9 a.m., open knitting / sewing class; noon, ladies only billiards; 12:30 p.m., mah jongg, movie ("Me Before You"); 1 p.m.,

Mexican Train Game; 2:30 p.m., chorus; 4:30 p.m., yoga; 6 p.m., beginner line dance.  
**Wednesday, Jan. 4:** 8 a.m., weight training; 8:15 a.m., yoga; 9:45 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 12:30 p.m., bridge; 1 p.m., scrabble; 1:30 p.m., Golden Agers Chapter 2 meeting; 5:30 p.m., Zumba Gold.  
**Thursday, Jan. 5:** 9:30 a.m., quilting; 10 a.m., line dancing; 12:30 p.m., bridge; 1 p.m., pitch, open art; 2 p.m., Melody Band practice; 6:30 p.m., pitch.  
**Friday, Jan. 6:** 8 a.m., yoga; 9:15 a.m., Let's Paint; 10 a.m., tai chi; noon, canasta; 1 p.m., pitch, cribbage; 7 p.m., Applause Series event.



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# Legals

**AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the **Agawam Public Library, Community Room, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA** on **Monday, January 9, 2017 at 6:30PM** for all parties interested in the appeal of Mark & Maria Graveline and Monica & Justin Curtis, who are seeking a Variance from Section 180-25 (A) of the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances, which would allow for the construction of a front porch on a residential structure with less than the required front setback at the premises identified as 40 Valentine St.

**Doreen Prouty**  
Chairperson  
Agawam Board of Appeals  
12/22, 12/29/16

**AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the **Agawam Public Library, Community Room, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA** on **Monday, January 9, 2017 at 7:00 PM** for all parties interested in the appeal of Pavel Kuzmenko who is seeking a Special Permit in accordance with Section 180-7 of the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances, which would allow for the construction of a duplex on a lot that is legally non-conforming at the premises identified as 63 High Street.

**Doreen Prouty**  
Chairperson  
Agawam Board of Appeals  
12/22, 12/29/16

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-8600 Docket No. HD16P2219EA**

**Estate of: Jane Mary McGuy Also Known As: Jane M. McGuy Date of Death: 11/23/16**

**INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Jon M Swindle** of Islip Terrace, NY, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

**Jon M Swindle** of Islip Terrace, NY has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Rep-

resentative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
12/29/16

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## SEND US YOUR SPORTS PHOTOS

Have you taken photos at a local sports event and want to see them published in this paper? Email your image(s) with description to: [dforbes@turley.com](mailto:dforbes@turley.com) or [gscibelli@turley.com](mailto:gscibelli@turley.com)



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**CORDWOOD SEASONED HARDWOOD** cut and split. \$225. Per cord 128 cubic feet, 2 cord minimum. Call 413 283-4977

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## Miscellaneous

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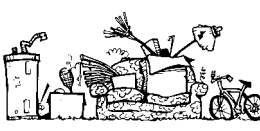
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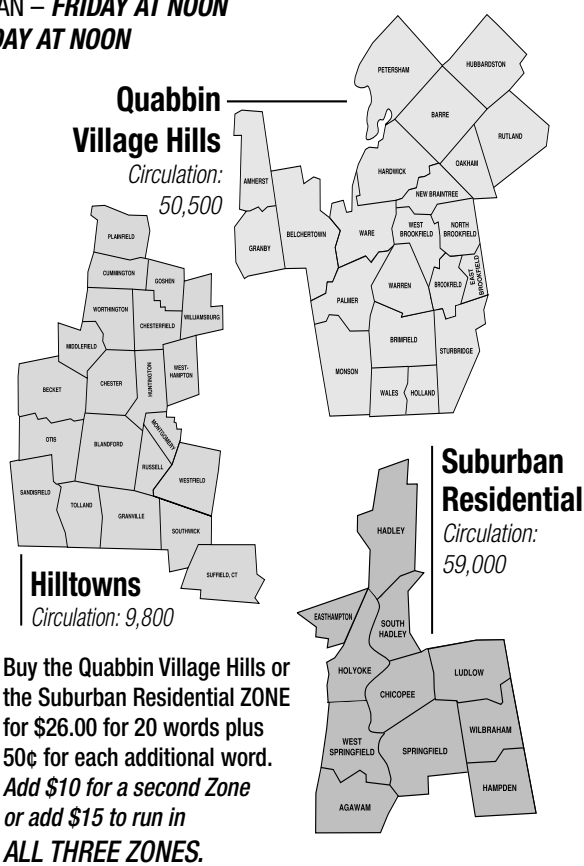
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5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
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Credit Card: ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ Discover ☐ Cash ☐ Check# \_\_\_\_\_  
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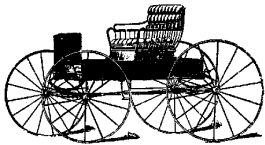
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CDL A with tanker endorsement  
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**ALL REAL ESTATE** advertised  
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illegal to advertise "any  
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discrimination because of race,  
color, religion, sex, handicap,  
familial status, or national origin,  
or intention to make any such  
preference, limitation, or  
discrimination." We will not  
knowingly accept any advertising  
for real estate which is in violation  
of the law. All persons are hereby  
informed that all dwellings  
advertised are available on an  
equal opportunity basis.

## For Rent

## FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this  
newspaper is subject to the Federal  
Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes  
it illegal to advertise any preference,  
limitation or discrimination based on  
race, color, religion, sex, handicap,  
familial status (number of children and  
or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry,  
age, marital status, or any intention to  
make any such preference, limitation or  
discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept  
any advertising for real estate that is in  
violation of the law. Our readers are hereby  
informed that all dwellings advertising in  
this newspaper are available on an equal  
opportunity basis. To complain about  
discrimination call The Department of  
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The Southwick News • The Holyoke Sun • Wilbraham-Hampden Times • Town Reminder

# Think you know your town? Take the 2016 news quiz

How well did you follow the news in 2016? For each of the questions below, the answer appeared somewhere in the pages of the Agawam Advertiser News in the past year. If you think you've got a good handle on everything that happened in this town in the past year, take the quiz and send your answers to Agawam Advertiser News, 380 Union St., West Springfield, MA 01089. You may also fax 413-786-8457, or email editor Michael Ballway at mballway@turley.com. Please send the answers on a separate piece of paper, typed or neatly printed, with your name and daytime telephone number (not for publication) at the top, and each question and answer denoted by number and letter only (e.g.: 1-A, 2-B, 3-A, 4-C, etc.). Those with the highest scores will be recognized in an upcoming edition of the Agawam Advertiser News. Entries must be received by Jan. 15.

- 1. According to columnist Walt Willard, what's the origin of the Agawam High School sports mascot, the Brownie?**
- A. Brown's Store, which sponsored an early youth baseball team in town.
  - B. The Cleveland Browns professional football team.
  - C. The Nipmuc word "Agawam," which means "brown river."
  - D. The first coach's favorite baked dessert.
- 2. Agawam resident Robin Wozniak took on what new role in February?**
- A. President of the Eastern States Exposition.
  - B. City solicitor in the municipal Law Department.
  - C. Executive director of the West of the River Chamber of Commerce.
  - D. Editor of the Agawam Advertiser News.
- 3. Why was Friends of Robinson State Park founded, 10 years ago?**
- A. To organize nature hikes at the park.
  - B. To advocate for more state funding for the park.
  - C. To celebrate the park's 75th anniversary.
  - D. To oppose commercial logging at the park.
- 4. How was the St. Patrick's Day Parade "a family affair" for Agawam Colleen Elizabeth Caracciolo?**
- A. Her father was also honored this year, as the town's parade marshal.
  - B. Her aunt was the 2004 Holyoke Grand Colleen, and her mother was in the 1987 Colleen's court.
  - C. Her grandfather received the John F. Kennedy Award in 1975.
  - D. Three of her cousins are Chicopee and Westfield police officers who march in the parade every year.
- 5. For what cause did "Helga the hen" serve as the mascot during a library event in April?**
- A. Youth literacy, particularly parents reading to toddlers.
  - B. Backyard farming, including chicken coops on half-acre lots.
  - C. A state ballot question to limit cruelty to farm animals.
  - D. Reducing waste and promoting recycling.
- 6. A mild winter affected sales of what product, according to Mike and Rosann Ryczek of River Road?**
- A. Studded tires.
  - B. Snow shovels.

## Can you match Mike?

Mike Marieb and Becky Washburn had the two best scores in last year's News Quiz, printed in the Dec. 31, 2015, edition of the Agawam Advertiser News.

Marieb submitted the only perfect score, answering all 20 questions correctly. Washburn had the second-best result, with 15 correct answers.

- C. Maple syrup.
  - D. Handmade mittens and scarves.
- 7. Who was Benjamin Wade, namesake of a neighborhood park on Franklin Street?**
- A. A Civil War-era senator from Ohio, born in Feeding Hills.
  - B. Agawam's first mayor, in the 1980s.
  - C. A town resident who became New York City's police chief in the 1930s.
  - D. A local industrialist who donated the land to the town.
- 8. What two properties were designated by the School Committee as preferred sites for a new Early Childhood Center?**
- A. Land behind Clark School and the field in front of Agawam Junior High School.
  - B. The former Agawam Motel site and a portion of Tuckahoe Turf Farm.
  - C. Perry Lane Park and land behind Clark School.
  - D. Perry Lane Park and the field in front of Agawam Junior High School.
- 9. What two prominent Massachusetts personalities spoke at Chamber of Commerce events this year?**
- A. Gov. Charlie Baker and Patriots coach Bill Belichick.
  - B. Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito and talk radio host Howie Carr.
  - C. Sen. Elizabeth Warren and actor Casey Affleck.
  - D. Congressman Richard Neal and former Gov. Mike Dukakis.
- 10. What classic toy was the focus of a tournament at Agawam Junior High School in May?**
- A. Hula Hoop.
  - B. Rubik's Cube.
  - C. Monopoly.
  - D. Lawn darts.
- 11. Agawam High School graduate Kelley Bolduc, who returned for a SummerFest concert in July with her new band Inna Sense, is best known for her work in what genre?**
- A. American folkmusic.
  - B. Italian ballads.
  - C. Polka music.
  - D. Reggae and calypso.
- 12. The Agawam Lions Club began holding fundraisers to build what "centennial" project this year?**
- A. A "welcome to Agawam" arch over the Morgan-Sullivan Bridge.
  - B. A "tot lot" playground at Perry Lane Park.
  - C. A nature trail boardwalk along the Westfield River.
  - D. A "peace garden" in Robinson State Park.

- 13. The community room of the library was mobbed on Aug. 16 with people trying to sign up for what?**
- A. New "chipped" library cards.
  - B. A Friends of the Library raffle for Patriots playoff tickets.
  - C. The E-ZPass toll collection system.
  - D. Seats in the Perry Lane preschool program.
- 14. Which of the following was Ed Borgatti, who died Aug. 1, NOT well-known in town for being?**
- A. Police chief.
  - B. Restaurant owner.
  - C. Semi-pro football player.
  - D. City councilor.
- 15. What is LavishlyHip LLC, a Feeding Hills business named to the Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce's "Super 60" for revenue growth?**
- A. An event planning service.
  - B. An indie music streaming web platform.
  - C. An online retailer of fashion accessories.
  - D. A developer of smartphone games and apps.
- 16. What "halfway to St. Pat's Day" fundraiser did the Agawam St. Patrick's Committee host on Sept. 17?**
- A. A road race.
  - B. A pub crawl.
  - C. An Irish music concert and sing-along.
  - D. Afternoon tea for little girls with the Colleen and her court.
- 17. Paved courts opened at Borgatti Park in September for what sport?**
- A. Netball.
  - B. Korfball.
  - C. Dek hockey.
  - D. Pickleball.
- 18. How many of Agawam's eight precincts did state Rep. Nicholas Boldyga win in the November election?**
- A. None.
  - B. Four.
  - C. Six.
  - D. All eight.
- 19. What did the City Council do with the tax rate split in November?**
- A. Made no change in the split.
  - B. Decreased the split, to favor business property owners.
  - C. Increased the split, to favor residential property owners.
  - D. Postponed its decision until the new year.
- 20. What milestone did Agawam High School's William Hueglin celebrate this year?**
- A. Ten years as director of bands.
  - B. Ten years as a music teacher.
  - C. Ten years since graduating from AHS.
  - D. Ten years since retiring.

Compiled by Michael J. Ballway

Success is neither magical nor mysterious.  
Success is the natural consequence of  
consistently applying basic fundamentals.  
— Jim Rohn

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# Wedding & Event Planner



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